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ADDITIONAL REVIEW OF "REFERATIVNYI ZHURNAL, BIOLOGIYA"  
FROM ITS INCEPTION TO THE PRESENT

100-1001: The following report is a translation of an article which appeared in Referativnyy Zhurnal, Biologiya (Abstract Journal, Biology), No. 1, 1956.

Referativnyy Zhurnal, Biologiya was first issued in 1954. In initiating its publication, the editorial board was confronted with the problem of providing biologists in every specialty with as complete information as possible on scientific data published in biological literature throughout the world. In the beginning, it was proposed that each semi-monthly issue would contain up to 2,000 items of information, i.e., abstracts, annotations, or bibliographic entries, amounting to 48,000 to 50,000 items of information per year. It soon became apparent, however, that 50,000 items a year would not sufficiently cover the yearly, world-wide, biological literature output. Thus, in 1955, 69,598 items of information were published in the journal. During 1956, the editorial board plans to publish 24 issues (the author's index being published as a separate entity) and each issue will contain from 4,000 to 45,000 items of information, or approximately 100,000 items per year.

Naturally, such an enormous amount of material can not all be published within the limited space of the Referativnyy Zhurnal, Biologiya in the form of abstracts. Thus, as in the past, items of information will appear in journal in the form of abstracts, annotations, and bibliographic entries. The form in which the item of information will appear will be determined in the case of theoretical biological works by their importance and timeliness, and in special agrobiological and medicobiological works, in addition, by the extent to which they deal with biological problems.

The number of works covered in the journal significantly exceeds the numbers contained in analogous foreign publications. Thus, in the German journal Berichte ueber die gesamte Biologie (Reports on All Fields of Biology), which has been published for almost 30 years, there were only 37,076 abstracts in both series during 1954. Only 30,276 abstracts and bibliographic entries were published during 1954 in the American abstract journal Biological Abstracts, which has been published since 1927.

Referativnyy Zhurnal, Biologiya is therefore the largest biological abstract journal in the world.

Up to the present, it has given information on scientific works published in 3,835 journals and periodical publications, i.e., trudy (works), collected works, annuals, etc. They were distributed as follows by countries: USSR, 680; US, 650; England, 395; Germany, 336; France, 227; Italy, 221; Poland, 97; Switzerland, 80; Japan, 75; Czechoslovakia, 69; Canada, 68; Austria, 67; Australia, 66; India, 65; Belgium, 62; China 55; Holland, 55; Sweden, 54; Hungary, 52; and 451 journals from other countries. During 1956, the number of periodical publications covered will be increased significantly.

During 1955, the abstracts of works published in English comprised 30.6 percent of the total number of works abstracted in the journal; Russian, 26.2 percent; German, 12.1 percent; French, 9.0 percent; Italian, 2.8 percent; Polish, 1.7 percent; Czech, 1.5 percent, etc.

Work done in the People's Democracies, the Scandinavian and Southern European countries, not to speak of the literature of the People's Republic

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of China, and the other countries of Asia and Africa, is hardly ever covered by the foreign abstract journals. Works published in the USSR are likewise given poor coverage in them. In such leading foreign abstract journals as Biological Abstracts and Excerpta Medica the majority of references are to the Anglo-Saxon biological and medical literature.

The editorial board has taken upon itself the task of making Referativnyy Zhurnal, Biologiya an information organ of international importance.

The data published in the journal have lagged behind their publication dates to a certain extent. This can be explained by the fact that the material published in Referativnyy Zhurnal, Biologiya was collected initially over a period of 1 1/2 years prior to its publication. Now, in connection with the enlarged scope of the publication, the editorial board hopes within the near future to shorten the time between initial date of publication of the works abstracted and their appearance as items of information in the journal.

To eliminate any existing deficiencies in the journal, the editorial board requests the readers send in their criticisms and recommendations.

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